

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-21, and 23-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawanabe (US Patent 5,806,997). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Each of independent Claims 1, 5, 11, 15, 21, and 26 recites an evaluating unit (or step) that detects a specific data sequence in a send data stream sent to a printer (emphasis added). To this limitation, the Examiner refers to Fig. 7 and column 11, lines 23-41 of Kawanabe. However, a careful reading of Kawanabe reveals that no specific data sequence is detected – only a data amount (one column's worth) is detected. The data itself is not evaluated, so a specific data sequence cannot and is not detected. Kawanabe does a simple comparison of the amount data (number of blocks of print data) read to BLKSZ (size of the data). The sequence of the data itself is irrelevant, only the size matters.

Independent Claims 1, 11, and 21 further recite a generating unit (or step) responsive to the evaluating unit detecting the specific data sequence in the send data stream, that divides the send data stream into a plurality of data stream segments not containing the specific data sequence, the plurality of data stream segments functioning the same as the send data stream (emphasis added). To this limitation, the Examiner refers to column 11, lines 23-41 and lines 42-47 of Kawanabe. This section merely discusses the procedure for printing columns of print data. There is no disclosure or suggestion of dividing the send data stream into a plurality of data stream segments not containing the specific data sequence. As discussed above no specific data sequence is detected – the print data itself is never looked at. How could Kawanabe divide the send data stream so that it does not contain the specific data sequence when the specific data sequence is never detected?

Independent Claims 5, 15 and 26 further recite a determination unit (or step), responsive to a detection result of the evaluating unit, that determines the position at which said specific data sequence is located if said specific data sequence is included in said print data sequence. To this limitation, the

Examiner refers to column 11, lines 9-22 and lines 22-32 of Kawanabe. Again, this is the section of Kawanabe that discusses the memory controller and its determination of columns of print data being read from the print buffer. The Examiner seems to be equating a specific data sequence with a column of print data. But columns are determined merely on the amount of data, not any specific sequence of the data itself.

Independent Claims 5, 15 and 26 further recite a division unit (or step), responsive to a determination result of said determination unit, that inserts dummy data into the print data sequence and divides said print data sequence into a plurality of divided print data sequences. To this limitation, the Examiner refers to column 12, lines 15-38 of Kawanabe. This section merely discusses how the printer controller is configured for printing and the steps the memory controller takes for reading out blocks of print data. There is no mention whatsoever about inserting dummy data into the print data sequence and dividing the print data sequence into a plurality of divided print data sequences.

Independent Claims 5, 15 and 26 further recite a conversion unit (or step), responsive to a determination result of said determination unit, that produces length parameters representing the lengths of respective divided print data sequences from the length parameters of the send data stream. As further recited, the transmission unit (or step) can transmit the length parameters to the printer. To these limitations, the Examiner refers to column 11, lines 9-22, column 12, lines 48-67, and column 13, lines 1-4 of Kawanabe. First, there is no length parameter produced as claimed. However, even if the Examiner is interpreting the BLKSZ as a length parameter, this value is not transmitted to the printer, only the actual print data is transmitted as discussed the column 11 and 12 segments of Kawanabe referenced by the Examiner.

The dependent claims recite yet additional novel features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by Kawanabe. The Kawanabe patent merely describes a typical memory controller that controls the manner in which columns of print data are read out of the print buffer and gated out to the printer. It is not relevant to the present invention, which is directed to the nature of the print

data itself. Heath, cited by the Examiner, relates to a print formatting system utilizing a table and does not add further relevant teachings to Kawanabe.

In view of the foregoing and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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